

THE GALLEWS.

EXECUTION OF JOSIAH PIKE AT CONCORD,  
YESTERDAY.  
CONCORD, N. H., Nov. 9.—New-Hamp

clings to the barbarous code of choking the life of criminals, whose degree of villainy may have at the point legally known as murder in the first degree and to-day, at the State Prison in this city, her gibbeted Josiah L. Pike, a young man of 30 years. A correspondent has attended 19 executions by hanging.

within the past year, and but one before in New Orleans; that of Samuel Milla, convicted of the murder of George Maxwell at Panama, Dec. 8, 1866, was changed in the jail at Haverhill, N. H., May 5, 1868. Of all, of which, duty made a writer an unwilling spectator, that of was unsurpassed for unnecessary brutality and barbarity. The gallows consisted of a beam projected from the window, under which a scaffold was erected, and

the criminal was "launched off" the rope and knotted way, obliging the Sheriff to re-adjust the cord, a hang the man. The disgraceful scenes witnessed there, will never be obliterated from memory, for after the wretched culprit had swung amid the hoots, cheers and curses of a motley multitude, and the corpse was down, it was taken into the streets, and publicly exhibited.

for half-an-hour at least. Brutality and roim held carnival, and no thinking man turned away from Penitentiary without questioning whether New-England properly held the advance post of our modern civilization. But the law was satisfied, and a few unfriends of the murderer and judiciously murdered gave a somewhat decent burial.

The execution to-day, was the second that has taken place in Merrimack County, the first being that of Abraham Prescott, a boy of 18 years, hanged Janu. 1836, for the murder of Mrs. Chauncey Coehran of Andover. This execution, as all have been heretofore public. Many have been attended by riotous people.

ings, and almost all have been disorderly. For the time in its history the execution was to-day performed within the precincts of the State Prison at Concord, which is one of the most ill constructed buildings for its special purpose of any in the country. Josiah Pike, the wretch who has just paid the penalty for a double murder, once held a position in society that

promise of an honorable career. He belonged to a respectable family, and has a mother and several brothers living in an adjoining town. One of his brothers is a wealthy merchant in one of our southern cities. His mother has been kept in ignorance of her son's whereabouts, for over a year, and still fancied him at sea. When the intelligence of today reached her, she was so shocked that she died.

It is just about a year since the pleasant village of Hampton Falls was aroused by the report that a terrible murder had been committed within its limits.

Mrs. Brown, husband and wife, living at a distance from the settlement, were sitting in their kitchen at dusk of the evening, when a low rap was heard at the door. As Mrs. Brown proceeded to answer it, and on opening the door, a caller, was felled to the floor by a stroke from a man whose hands she felt a disguised fellow, whose identity she

proved. Mr. Brown rushed to her rescue, only to meet the same fate, and both were left for dead on the ground. The ruffian, who proceeded to search the bodies, then escaped. No sooner was the crime disclosed than suspicion pointed to Pike, as a man who might be expected to give some clue to the affair, for he was of Irish extraction, and was in the vicinity of the murder.

but a short time before, and was boarding with him at the house of her mother in an adjacent town. On grocery bills, and minor expenses of household, he crowded in upon him; he had been often out of pocket, and on being pressed for money, on the very day

murder, he started out, saying to his wife that he not return until midnight. He returned toward ing, and had been at home but a hours, when arrested. Most of the money stolen, pocket-book and a few smaller articles, identified property of the murdered Browns, being found upon he was at once lodged in jail, tried, and sentenced

A few days ago, in company with the Rev. S. H. Holman of Montpelier, Vt., but then chaplain of the Prison of New-Hampshire, your reporter visited F. his cell. He has been in solitary confinement (except brief interval of escape) over a year, with nothing but the bareness of the cell walls, or the gnawing

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morse in his soul. To all the entreaties, and prayers  
the Rev. Mr. Holman, one of the noblest Christian  
thoripists of New-England (and to whom Pike  
the special request that he "should like to spend  
hours of life in company with so good a man and friend  
the condemned man never opened his heart. From

first he has been doggedly reserved, and friendly to save the officers of the prison. It was a source of pride to Pike that, in his prison solitude, the Warden Joseph Mayo, did everything that was possible to make time pass pleasantly. But Pike would narrate the dreams of his disturbed sleep, and looking into his eyes one could read the deeper workings of a nobler but strained nature. Pike was about 5 feet 8 inches tall, a coarse build, dark hair, and eyes, a retreating

square build, dark hair and eyes, receding head, and of light, agile step. He was extremely observant, and the phrenologist would say he was inherently designing and treacherous. His employment, save reading, the days dragged heavily, but, throughout all, the doomed man entertained the delusion that he would be so far mercifully considered at least to have his sentence commuted to imprisonment for life. On Thursday last, his two brothers and three children spent two hours in his cell, and the form

By law of 1867 of the General Assembly of Hampshire, the Sheriff of the county and his deputies, and the officials of the prisons, only, allowed to witness an execution, and as the murder committed in Rockingham County, the Hon. J.

Pike spent last night in his cell with the Rev. Mr. Holman, his spiritual adviser. The time was mainly spent in religious devotions, during which interviewers were made a plain statement of all the details of his case, which was reduced to writing by the chaplain following after the execution. At 1 1/2 o'clock this morning Holman retired, and the regular guard resumed duty.

the prisoner, who, during his entire incarceration, has been a model of correct deportment, giving no occasion to any officer for even a word of censure. From 10 o'clock a. m. he slept soundly, and on awakening at the 1st Psalm, after which he donned the customary prison suit, and ate a hearty breakfast. At 9 o'clock religious services were held in his cell, and a quintette of ladies sang this ery, at Plikes' special request, sang the hymn, "The latest sun is sinkin' fast." From that hour he received

At 11 o'clock precisely the procession of Sheriff's men, the coroner, and officials filed out of the southern wing of the jail office into the corridor, and proceeded at once to the gallows. The spectators numbered about fifty, including a dozen State officials. The party stood with heads uncovered while the Sheriff read his warrant, and then was asked if he had anything to say way side.

should it be executed upon him, to which he replied through the chaplain, who read the following:

**GENTLEMEN:** I do not shrink from my fate. I do not dread to die, because I know how worthless my life is, and I have a hope in Christ for a better hereafter, but I wish to leave a warning to my bad friends who are inclined to refuse repentance. It has destroyed my life and the life of my soul, and I entreat those who deal in intoxicating drinks to see a dreadful world, and ask I implore their victims to stop before it is late. As I hope to be forgiven the sins of a mispent life, I beseech you to forgive those who have sinned against myself, and willingly commit the same sins.

At the conclusion all on the scaffold bowed in prayer. Pike kneeling by the side of the Chaplain, and, I

first time, evincing most unmistakable evidence of agony. After prayer Pike shook hands with all near and bade each good-bye, and for nearly ten minutes he turned around and pulled about in the operation of adjusting the noose and cap. Pike's face at this time was the picture of unexpressible woe and despair. Sheriff now advanced, and said: "Josiah L. Pike, now about to execute sentence passed upon you, may God have mercy on your soul." As the last

Pike fell a distance of six feet. The distance had been miscalculated, and the poor fellow touched bottom only on the stone floor below, being evidently unconscious for two minutes, and making desperate exertions to raise himself. "Pull him up, or I pull him up," cried several in the crowd, and a deputy ascended the gulleway and drew the writhing body up higher. Faces blanched, stout men quivered, and even the sturdy, brown-skinned, olive-complexioned, partially hu-

were non- or semi-conscious. The deck was partially flooded at the first fall, however, but as the result of both the fall and long suspension; and the three surgeons' attendance gave it as their opinion that Pike was unconscious when his feet touched the flood, and made desperate efforts to lift them up. This theory seems settled by the fact that at the end of seven minutes from his first pulse stood at 80, and lowered to 40 only at the end of 15 minutes. At the end of 15 minutes there was no pulse at all. At the end of 20 minutes, or half hour, there was no pulse at all.

body was cut down to undergo a post-mortem examination to-night, and finally to be removed to New Mass., for burial.

Thus the curtain falls again on an execution in this State, one which for cruelty and horror is certainly one of the cruelest and most horrible ever witnessed to the crime for which Pike lost his life, were it not for the cover of legal enactments. The public sentiment in this State is undoubtedly against hanging, and the

ful scenes of to-day will develop and transform  
Societies.